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**From:** Coate, Carson  
**Sent:** Thur 7/31/2014 7:35:54 PM  
**Subject:** Possible Success Story for ECOS  
Montana Nutrients for ECOS Version 2.docx

Good Afternoon Tracy –

We were asked to put together a short overview of an issue that we successfully partnered on with the state. Apparently, three stories will be selected for presentation at ECOS. We thought the nutrient story would be a good one to tell and I heard you agreed.

Is there a chance you could review what we put together and let us know if you have any comments/edits/additions? I have included a shorter version below and a little longer version attached to this email. I apologize, but we were asked turn this around by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks,

CC

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On July 25, 2014 the Montana Board of Environmental Review adopted numeric nutrient criteria for wadeable streams/rivers and segments of the Yellowstone River. The adoption of the proposed nutrient rules represents the culmination of many years of research, collaboration, and outreach from MT DEQ to a myriad of different stakeholders. EPA worked closely with MTDEQ throughout the process to resolve the various technical and policy hurdles encountered throughout the process. EPA HQs funded independent peer reviews of the State's proposed criteria for wadeable streams and the mainstem Yellowstone River and provided technical assistance in developing the economic justification for the general variances. EPA participated in the majority of Montana's 24 nutrient workgroup meetings, clarifying the Agency's position on issues being discussed and identifying options for addressing stakeholder concerns. Regular communication between MTDEQ and EPA staff and management on controversial issues facilitated the completion of the nutrient rule package and helped identify solutions and avoid possible pitfalls. A common goal – adoption of numeric nutrient criteria to protect Montana waters— forced both Agencies to “think outside the box” and be willing to compromise. The outcome is numeric nutrient criteria that will help guide nutrient reductions throughout the State.